THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The programme of issuing voters' photo identity cards is being implemented in all States and Union territories with a few exceptions. The scheme has so far not been extended to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The work has also not started in Assam and Mizoram till now, although the programme has been extended to these States.

(b) After issuing revised guildlines in the matter in May, 2000, the work on implementation of voters' photo identity cards programme was started in right earnest in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The first phase of the campaign was started in December, 2000 at 28 centres for on-line issue of the identity cards to residual electors. Due to technical problems with computer software, programme launched on 11.12.2000 could not function satisfactorily and had to be suspended within a few days. Thereafter, a fresh tender has been floated by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi for appointment of suitable vendors for the job. The work will be restarted shortly after finalisation of the tender.

(c) According to the Election Commission, the scheme of issuing photo identity cards to electors is not a project but a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the scheme of issuing identity cards to the registered electors is a continuous programme, as, every new elector in a constituency has also to be covered by the scheme.

Mass computerisation and networking of Courts

874. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Government that the city of Hyderabad should be included alongwith four other metropolitan cities for mass computerisation and networking of Courts during the current year;

(b) if so, by when this request of the State Government is going to be acceded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is for computerisation and networking of City Civil Courts only for four metropolitan cities *i.e.* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai as pilot scheme.

Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible for the Central Government to extend the scheme of computerisation and networking in the subordinate judiciary to other cities. However, under the centrally sponsored scheme, for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, the States/UTs are free to utilise the required amount for computerisation within the overall allocation made to the States/UTs.

Declaration as National Waterways

875. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Water Transport Policy laid down by Government envisages declaration of ten waterways across the country as National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the National Waterways;

(c) whether declaration of Godavari, Narmada and Krishna as National Waterways has been found technically feasible and economically viable; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not declaring the same as National Waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Three Waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 km), the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km) and West Coast Canals from Kottapuram to Kollam including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km) have been declared as national waterways. Action to develop these waterways be providing infrastructure facilities such as navigational channel, terminals and